

MACAULAY'S USE OF AUTHORITIES

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the relations between William and his Parliament, and the progress of William's arms in Ireland, were not less important to it than to the Dutch. Consequently the despatches of the Spanish ambassador throughout the period from 1685 to 1702 supply information of value about domestic affairs as well as foreign relations. Pedro Ronquillo *was* the Spanish ambassador in England during James IPs reign. A volume of the Mackintosh collection contained transcripts of a number of his despatches, and Macaulay obtained copies of others. At the opening of chapter iv of his History he quotes a letter of Ronquillo's to show that at the very beginning of James's reign the king was urged by Spain to keep on good terms with his people and Parliament. ' This despatch/ he adds, ' is in the archives of Simancas, which contain a great mass of papers relating to English affairs. Copies of the most interesting of those papers are in the possession of M. Guizot, and were by him lent to me. It is with peculiar pleasure that, at this time, I acknowledge this mark of the friendship of so great a man/ ^x

As to Italian diplomatic sources, Macaulay had copies of the letters of Count Adda (or Dada, as English contemporaries called him), the papal nuncio in England, but his footnotes contain no references to the

letters of other Italian agents in England. The Relations of the Venetian ambassador who resided in England during the period were not printed till 1863. Ranke began his series of researches in the Venetian archives in 1830, but access to them was very difficult, and no Englishman was admitted to work there till 1850, when Rawdon Brown began his researches. The materials which they contained for the reigns of James II and William III were therefore not used

¹1,460 (iv).